



NEW MEXICO
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION

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Deputy Secretary

[Handwritten signature]
7/19

July 8, 1988

Mark Satterwhite, 6H-SS
New Mexico State Coordinator
US EPA
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mark:

Enclosed for EPA review are the Site Discovery and Preliminary Assessment for UNC San Mateo mine. UNC San Mateo mine is an unreclaimed, inactive, uranium mine with large spoils piles containing high concentrations of selenium, molybdenum, radium-226, and gross-alpha activity. Releases of contaminants to drainage sediment and surface water have been documented during previous NMEID and USEPA investigations. The NMEID investigation also documented contamination of ground water down-gradient of the site; however, it has not yet been determined if this contamination is attributable to UNC San Mateo mine.

Preliminary ranking of the site using the 1982 HRS suggests that NPL listing would be likely if either a release to ground water or a release by air transport were observed and documented. Due to the unreclaimed condition of the site either of these are possible.

We recommend that a site investigation be conducted to determine if the site is contributing contaminants to ground water or if contaminants are being released from the site by air transport.

If you have any questions regarding this site or our evaluation please call me at (505) 827-2898.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Steve J. Cary]

Steve J. Cary, Program Manager
Superfund Section
Hazardous Waste Bureau

SC:RM:dlr

Enclosures

SUPERFUND
FILE

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